



Department of Justice

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Eastern District of California

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BAKERSFIELD CHIROPRACTOR, WIFE, AND ATWATER BUSINESSMAN INDICTED FOR TAX EVASION

FRESNO, Calif.—Acting United States Attorney Lawrence G. Brown announced today that a federal grand jury returned a seven-count indictment charging VINCENT STEVEN BOOTH, 52; LOUISE Q. BOOTH, 49, both of Bakersfield, Calif.; and MICHAEL S. IOANE, 48, of Atwater, Calif.; with conspiracy to evade the payment of taxes, three counts of tax evasion, and four counts of presenting a fictitious instrument to the Internal Revenue Service.

This case is the product of an investigation by the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation.

According to Assistant United States Attorneys Mark E. Cullers and James R. Terzian, who are prosecuting the case, VINCENT STEVEN BOOTH, a chiropractor who owns San Joaquin Wellness and Medical Group, his wife LOUISE Q. BOOTH, and taxpayer representative IOANE conspired together to evade the payment of over \$1.3 million in taxes from 1995 to the present. According to the indictment, the defendants conspired to evade the payment of taxes owed by the BOOTHs by creating sham trusts, filing bogus liabilities against the BOOTH's properties to impede the IRS in its collection efforts, submitting "Bills of Exchange" to the IRS in an effort to erase the BOOTH's tax liability and creating frivolous deed transfers of the BOOTH's properties to keep them out of the reach of the IRS.

The indictment further alleges that the BOOTHs evaded \$322,879 in taxes for 1995, \$332,737 in taxes for 1996 and \$702,414 in taxes for 1997. VINCENT STEVEN BOOTH and IOANE submitted false documents, called "Bills of Exchange," to the Internal Revenue Service that they represented to be actual monetary instruments in an attempt to pay BOOTH's federal income taxes.

VINCENT STEVEN BOOTH faces up to five years in prison and a fine of up to \$100,000 on the conspiracy count; up to five years in prison and a fine of up to \$100,000 on each of the tax evasion counts and up to 25 years and a fine up to \$250,000 on each of the false instruments counts. LOUISE Q. BOOTH faces up to five years in prison and a fine of up to \$100,000 on the conspiracy count and up to five years in prison and a fine of up to \$100,000 on each of the tax evasion counts. IOANE faces up to five years in prison and a fine of up to \$100,000 on the conspiracy count and up to 25 years and a fine up to \$250,000 on each of the false instruments counts. The actual sentence, however, will be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables and any applicable statutory sentencing factors.

The charges in the indictment are only allegations, and the defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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